

Jan. 31, 2022

### **Alberta RCMP statement regarding Coutts border assembly**

Coutts, Alta.—The Alberta RCMP continue to act to preserve the peace and maintain public safety at the Coutts border crossing.

What began as a peaceful assembly quickly turned into an unlawful blockade. The Alberta RCMP's efforts to negotiate a peaceful resolution has been unsuccessful.

As of today, Jan. 31, 2022, further action is being taken by the Alberta RCMP. This event continues to impede the ability for emergency services to provide full services to area residents, the flow of goods and services are negatively impacted and the public's freedom of movement is impeded.

A Highway is considered essential infrastructure. It is unlawful to wilfully obstruct, interrupt or interfere with the construction, maintenance, use or operation of any essential infrastructure in a manner that renders the essential infrastructure dangerous, useless, inoperative or ineffective as per the Critical Infrastructure Defence Act of Alberta. Anyone who actively blocks a highway—or aids, counsels or directs a highway to be blocked—may be subject to arrest and charge under this act.

Person's participating in this event can also expect enforcement of any contraventions the Criminal Code of Canada, the Traffic Safety Act and Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulations on Highway 4 and area roadways.

The Alberta RCMP uses necessary measures to protect the fundamental freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, to promote the safety of all citizens, to enforce laws and to maintain peace and order. In turn, it must be recognized that while everyone has a right to peaceful freedom of expression; the general public, local residents and businesses also have the right to a safe environment and freedom of movement. This event is no longer a peaceful assembly.

Alberta RCMP would like to advise that commercial vehicles are advised to contact Canada Border Services Agency for further information regarding border crossings.

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**\*\*\* Photos taken by Alberta RCMP for media use attached. \*\*\***

**Media contact:**

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Irrelevant